

Serial No. 10/699,904

Docket No. 200310791-1

REMARKS

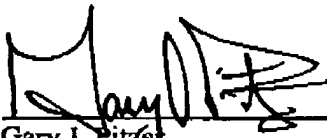
Applicant appreciates the Notice of Allowance for the subject application in which claims 1-13, 15-33 and 35-39 have been allowed. Claims 1 and 27 have been amended by this amendment since the claim amendments entered by an Examiner's Amendment are unacceptable to Applicant. In particular, the Examiner's Amendment sought to add indefinite and definite articles to modify the term "slack" in claims 1 and 27.

First, the Examiner's Amendment was made without consent of Applicant. Additionally, such amendment is not necessary since the original wording, as re-presented by this amendment, is consistent with proper grammar rules, is consistent with both industry practices and the Specification of the present application. Amended claim 1, for example, recites "an indication of slack for at least one node of a circuit design..." in the first instance and subsequently refers to "the indication of slack..." Thus, it is the "indication of slack" which is the object of the verb "provides," with slack being a modifier of the indication being provided. Applicant believes the Examiner's Amendment to be more awkward when compared the original wording of claims 1 and 27. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments to claims 1 and 27 be entered without withdrawing the application from issue so that the Applicant can pay the issue fee timely.

Should the Examiner or his supervisor have any questions concerning this paper, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at (216) 621-2234, Ext. 106.

No fees should be due for this response. In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Gary J. Pitzer
Registration No. 39,334
Attorney for Applicant(s)

CUSTOMER No.: 022879
Hewlett-Packard Company
Legal Department MS 79
3404 E. Harmony Road
Ft. Collins, CO 80528